

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193317
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 R

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-----045451 160159Z /75

R 152226Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

UNCLAS STATE 193317

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH REQUEST FOR GSP TREATMENT OF HANDI-
CRAFT EXPORTS

1. COMMERCE MINISTER SAIFUR RAHMAN PRESSED FOR MORE FAVOR-
ABLE TARIFF TREATMENT OF JUTE HANDICRAFTS FROM BANGLADESH
WHEN HE MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE HARMAN
MARCH 30. MINISTER RAHMAN DID NOT SPECIFY THE PARTICULAR
ITEMS FOR WHICH BANGLADESH WAS SEEKING MORE FAVORABLE
TREATMENT. COMMERCE STAFF MEMBER WHO WAS PRESENT REQUESTED
THIS INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING FROM
BANGLADESH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY (COMMERCIAL) K.L. RAHMAN,
WHO WAS ALSO AT MEETING. HE AGREED TO SUPPLY SPECIFIC PRO-
DUCT INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A MONTH LATER HE
PROVIDED A LIST OF FIVE SPECIFIC JUTE HANDICRAFT ITEMS WITH
A REQUEST FOR THEIR INCLUSION IN GSP: BRAIDED RUGS, FLOWER
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POT HANGERS, MATS AND COASTERS, BELTS, AND SHOULDER BAGS.
COTTON AND BAMBOO HANDICRAFTS WERE NOT MENTIONED EITHER
THEN OR SUBSEQUENTLY.

2. ONCE THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY HAD IDENTIFIED THE SPECIFIC
JUTE PRODUCTS, WASHINGTON AGENCIES EXAMINED THE REQUESTED
ITEMS FROM THE STANDPOINT OF WHETHER THERE WERE ANY FACTORS

THAT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDE THE ITEMS FROM CONSIDERATION. IT WAS ASCERTAINED THAT THE REQUESTED JUTE ITEMS WERE NOT SUBJECT TO THE MULTIFIBER ARRANGEMENT OR TO BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS AND NOT THEREBY PRECLUDED FROM CONSIDERATION FOR POSSIBLE DESIGNATION; AS GSP ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS. THIS INFORMATION WAS CONVEYED TO K.L. RAHMAN BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE -DKATZ IN A LETTER OF JUNE 21 WHICH INCLUDED GENERAL GUIDANCE ON THE FORMAL PETITIONING PROCESS FOR GSP. SINCE THE PROCESS IS CURRENTLY BEING REVISED, THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED TO WITHHOLD APPLICATION UNTIL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REVISION 9S(NOW EXPECTED TO OCCUR IN SEPTEMBER) AND THEN TO FOLLOW THE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES IN THE PETITIONING PROCESS. THE ENTIRE PROCESS GENERALLY TAKES ABOUT SIX MONTHS.

3. WASHINGTON BASED UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ALSO REQUESTED SIMILAR INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT ON SAME PRODUCTS, AND WERE GIVEN RESPONSE ALONG LINES OF ABOVE. THEY APPARENTLY ARE PLANNING TWO PETITION TO HAVE THESE ITEMS ADDED TO GSP IN ORDER TO BENEFIT BANGLADESH. VANCE

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Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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